

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ADDIS 14660 191442Z

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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R 191151Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7429

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 14660

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS ET

SUBJ: KIDNAPPED BRITISH HONORARY CONSUL

REF: ADDIS 13607

1. BRITISH COUNSELOR CALLED AT EMB DEC 18 TO COMPARE
NOTES ON KAGNEW IV AND OTHER ASMARA KIDNAPPEES. HE TOLD
DCM THAT BRITISH HAVE HAD NO RECENT WORD FROM OR ABOUT
HONORARY CONSUL BURWOOD-TAYLOR WITH EXCEPTION OF REUTERS
REPORT FILED IN BEIRUT DEC 13, NOR ANY WORD AT ALL ABOUT
TWO KIDNAPPED CHINESE.

2. REUTERS REPORT SAID "ERITREAN SECESSIONISTS SAID HERE
TODAY CONDITIONS WOULD BE ANNOUNCED SHORTLY FOR THE
RELEASE OF THE HONORARY BRITISH CONSUL, BASIL BURWOOD-
TAYLOR, KIDNAPPED IN OCTOBER. A STATEMENT ISSUED BY THE
ELF - POPULAR LIBERATION FORCES SAID THE CONSUL WAS
STILL IN OUR HANDS, ENJOYS GOOD HEALTH AND IS BEING WELL
TREATED. IT ADDED INVESTIGATIONS TO FIND OUT HIS REAL
MISSION IN ERITREA HAVE REACHED THE FINAL STAGE AND
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CONDITIONS FOR HIS RELEASE WILL BE ANNOUNCED IMMEDIATELY

INQUIRIES ARE COMPLETED."

3. BRITISH HERE ARE DISTURBED BY REPORT WHICH FIRST INDICATION THEY HAVE THAT THERE MIGHT BE CONDITIONS ATTACHED TO BURWOOD-TAYLOR'S RELEASE, AND THAT PLF HAS BEEN LOOKING INTO HIS "REAL MISSION." BRITISH HAD HOPED ON BASIS EARLIER REPORT FROM MIDDLE EAST THAT BURWOOD-TAYLOR WOULD BE RELEASED UNCONDITIONALLY OVER TWO WEEKS AGO.

4. DCM SAID IT HIS UNDERSTANDING FROM ITALIAN CONGEN WHOM HE SAW IN ASMARA WEEK AGO THAT APART FROM ONE NON-SUBSTANTIVE LETTER, ITALIANS HAVE SIMILARLY HEARD NOTHING FROM ELF, PLF, OR THEIR KIDNAPPED MAN FALANCHI. COUNSELOR CONFIRMED THIS HIS UNDERSTANDING AS WELL. THUS, APART FROM REUTERS BEIRUT REPORT, WHICH BRITISH EMB THERE ATTEMPTING CHECK OUT DIRECTLY WITH FRONT CONTACTS, MANTLE OF SILENCE SEEMS TO HAVE DESCENDED WITH REGARD TO ALL EIGHT KIDNAPPEES.

HUMMEL

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